

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

MAY 19, 1896.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. GALLINGER, from the Committee on Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany H. R. 5792.]

The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 5792) granting a pension to Mrs. Julia A. Jameson, have examined the same and report:

The report of the Committee on Invalid Pensions of the House of Representatives hereto appended is adopted, and the passage of the bill is recommended.

HOUSE REPORT.

Charles D. Jameson served as colonel Second Maine Volunteer Infantry from May 28, 1861, to August 14, 1861, when he resigned. He was appointed brigadier-general of volunteers September 3, 1861, and commanded a brigade in Heintzelman's division, Army of the Potomac, from October, 1861, to February, 1862; from March, 1862, to May 31, 1862, he commanded the First Brigade, Hamilton's division, Third Army Corps. He was granted leave of absence June 13, 1862, for the benefit of his health, and died from the effects of typhoid fever November 6, 1862, at his home in Oldtown, Me. The following letters from Gen. O. O. Howard and Gen. Joseph S. Smith are pertinent:

CHICAGO, February 19, 1896.

DEAR MR. BOUTELLE: Mrs. General Jameson's case is so clear that I think she will get her increase. General Jameson was badly hurt at Fair Oaks in the battle, and lay all night on the field without cover. He was never well again. He died in consequence of that terrible exposure.

Sincerely, yours,

OLIVER O. HOWARD.

BANGOR, ME., March 1, 1896.

DEAR SIR: Referring to the Jameson pension case, I would say that at the battle of Fair Oaks, Va., in 1862, General Jameson's horse was killed and fell upon the General, during the latter part of the battle, hurting him severely; that the General lay upon the field all night. It was raining very hard. As a result of his exposure typhoid fever set in, which was the cause of his death. I am personally knowing to the above as I brought him from the field of battle to Washington, D. C., at the time. I sent to Maine for his wife and her father, who came on, and after he gained a little they took him to his home, but he was never able to rally, but soon after died.

Mrs. Jameson has ever since been a widow, and has no other means of support excepting her pension. She is now nearly 70 years of age, very feeble and infirm.

General Jameson gave up a prosperous business to enter the service, and died a bankrupt.

As to who I am, I can refer to Senator Frye, Speaker Reed, Representatives Boutelle, Dingley, and Milliken.

Very respectfully,

JOSEPH S. SMITH,

Late Brevet Brigadier-General, United States Volunteers.

HON. GEORGE M. CURTIS,

Member of Congress, Second District of Iowa.

In view of General Jameson's gallant services and the necessitous condition of his widow, the committee earnestly recommend the passage of the bill with an amendment striking out all after the word "receiving," in line 9.

Appended is a very full statement in regard to the services of General Jameson, which shows the esteem in which he was held by General Phil Kearny and others.

Military record of Brig. Gen. Charles Davis Jameson, United States Volunteers, war of the rebellion, 1861-1865.

The Second Maine Regiment, Col. Charles D. Jameson, was the first to leave the State for the seat of war, and was among first of the New England regiments that set foot upon the "sacred soil" of Virginia, arriving at Falls Church on the morning of July 1, 1861, where they were encamped three weeks, being the farthest advanced of any regiment toward the enemy.

At the first battle of Bull Run the Second was hotly engaged, and displayed numerous instances of daring and reckless bravery. Upon the retiring of General McDowell's army they were detailed as rear guard and were attacked by the celebrated Black Horse Cavalry, which they routed completely. For this exploit Colonel Jameson was warmly thanked and complimented by General Keyes, commanding the brigade, and by General Tyler, commanding the division. During this battle their loss was 47 killed and wounded and over 100 missing. The Union forces being ordered to fall back the night after the engagement, the Second arrived the following morning, after a severe and tiresome march, at Alexandria, where they remained two days, and then were ordered to the vicinity of Fort Corcoran, directly opposite Georgetown. There they remained some two weeks, when they were placed in possession of the fort, and acted as heavy artillery until the middle of October, during which time they were reviewed by General McClellan, President Lincoln, and Secretary Stanton, the former complimenting them highly for their drill. While in command of the fort Lieutenant-Colonel Roberts, who succeeded to the colonelcy of the regiment after Colonel Jameson was appointed brigadier-general, was twice ordered to get ready for action. (Adj. Gen. Report, Maine, 1862, pt. 1, p. 39.)

Maine has been called upon since my last report to mourn the loss of some of her sons whose virtues it will not be unbecomingly briefly to describe. It is due to the gallant dead that meritorious service for the public good should have public record.

Gen. Charles D. Jameson was one of the best specimens of the chivalrous gentlemen, soldier, and patriot which his native State has sacrificed to the Union during the war. He was a true son of Maine; lived on the banks of our noblest river, always resident within our borders, engaged in that business which marks our distinctive employment and gives us name. He was in all respects a true child of the Pine Tree State. In all the calls of life he was active and energetic. He was successful in his business and happy in his home. He was generous and genial in his associations with his fellow-men. He had a great readiness of perception, the nicest sense of honor, and a bland and pleasing address. He had no enemies, but the most extended circle of warm and sustaining friends. In politics he was a Democrat whose patriotism and love of liberty blazed high and warm above the limits of party.

It was natural that such a man should have been the colonel of the militia regiment of his vicinity, and twice a candidate for governor of the State. The attack upon Sumter brought from his heart the earliest vows upon the altar of his country. He left wife and children, parents, and home and friends, and all that made life cherished and valuable, to share the hardships and dangers of the field. The Second Regiment, raised under his active exertions, made him its colonel, and was the first from Maine at the seat of war. In a few weeks it was launched in battle at Bull Run. Its conduct there gave it glory and a gallant name. Its colonel then won his star as brigadier.

It shows the man that in this conflict, when the regiment had been driven back from batteries of the enemy, leaving their wounded behind, he called for volunteers, and leading back a little band, under steady fire, brought off in their arms the

injured and helpless men. As brigadier he had not the fortune to lead men from his own State, but choice regiments from Pennsylvania and New York composed his command. With those he fought at Yorktown, Williamsburg, Fair Oaks, and in other fields of battle. He was first to enter Yorktown, and one of the first to enter Williamsburg.

At Fair Oaks his conduct and generalship won him warmest praise from his superior, that eminently gallant man, the late lamented Kearny. It is believed that Jameson then and there carried the Stars and Stripes and by its side the Pine Tree banner of Maine nearer Richmond than any other, before or since, in this war. A friend once asked him, "What did you intend, with your handful of men, when you received orders at Fair Oaks to fall back?" "But for that order," said he, "I would have been in Heaven or in Richmond that night." As a soldier General Jameson was a striking figure. Daring to rashness, exposing himself without sense of danger, he rushed into battle and inflamed with his own dash and ardor the men who followed him.

He asked no man to go where he was not willing to be in advance of the foremost. He was not less noticeable in other fields of duty. He had, at all times and in all places, the love and admiration of his brigade, which gloried in its leader. He cared for his men tenderly, and counted no labor as hardship which brought them health or comfort; in marches he walked with them. He lived with them in camp, and shared their lot, whatever it was. By such labor and exposure he became sick, and in September came home to recruit his health, intending soon to go back to the field again, but it was not so ordered of Providence, and he sank gradually until, on the 6th day of November last, he died. It sums up this narrative that Jameson was the first volunteer and the first colonel in the field from Maine; that he was first at Yorktown, and among the first and foremost toward Richmond; one of the first in gallantry, one of the first in the love and admiration of his men. Alas, that he should be the first general of Maine to die. At 35 years of age it was hard for the country to lose such a gallant spirit, but the State has gained the memory of a hero.

The Washington Republican speaks as follows of the qualities which distinguished our gallant general:

"Intrepid, enterprising, but withal judicious and full of resources, General Jameson had before him the prospect of a most brilliant military career. He was one of the fighting generals.

"As he, with others of the salvaged chiefs of fearless men who lately have left us—when we could have better spared others of another mold than their's—as he, and Kearny, and Stevens shall reach the shores of that dark river, made mournful by Cerberus's ceaseless howl, the waiting hosts of the bravest dead of all the past will recognize their beaming blades, nor will they seek to dispute them place amid their front and foremost ranks."

[General Kearny to General Jameson.]

"DEAR GENERAL: I have signed and forwarded to Mr. Fuller the requisite certificate.

"You have no idea how greatly I miss you socially and militarily, and your last, on the 30th of June, on the Newmarket road, I think, really, the handsomest fight of the war. Our line was very unjustly extended, 2½ miles for our weak division.

"The fighting fell entirely on the First Brigade, and I grudged giving General Robinson, a stranger to us, the credit. The enemy tried on us Longstreet's men, who had succeeded on the Chickahominy, but it would not go down. They disregarded our artillery, Thompson's battery; lost men not by scores, but by hundreds, and were only repulsed by Hayes with the Sixty-third and part of the Thirty-seventh, and your humble servant. Hayes counted for a legion. As he led them, with his wild, heroic actions, he really looked Homeric; and I trust that I figured for some. * * *

"Oh, how I fancied your being there, with your own fine form and dashing, impulsive manner, forming one of our trio. This brigade, which you managed so well and kept in heart, believed in you and followed you with a discipline of the heart. * * *

"I have invariably maintained that you are identified with the division. Williamsburg and Fair Oaks (the great battles of the war) saw you towering o'er the sea of fight, and I acknowledge none other. I have met with too many insulting slights not to count as precious above all other distinctions my noble division, as it entered the baptismal stream of fire in that first proof for the idlers of the Potomac—Williamsburg. * * *

"Dear General, may you soon recover and be back in time to head those men who believe in you.

"Very truly, yours,

"P. KEARNY, General.

"HARRISONS LANDING, August 9, 1862."

The following letter of General Jameson to his friend and neighbor was accompanied by a pen-and-ink diagram of the engagement of which he gives a description:

HEADQUARTERS FIRST BRIGADE, KEARNY'S DIVISION,
Fair Oaks Station, June 4, 1862.

Hon. G. P. SEWALL,

DEAR SIR: Thinking you might be interested in a brief description of the great battle of last Saturday, I inclose a rough sketch of that portion of the field that came under my observation during the engagement, and will endeavor to give you some idea of my movements after arriving at the scene of action.

I came up the Richmond road with three regiments, having sent one, the Fifty-seventh Pennsylvania Volunteers, up the railroad. Upon arriving near the open field where the rifle pits are, on the Richmond road, I filed off to the left into the woods road, and marched up to the abatis. I deployed the Sixty-third Regiment Pennsylvania Volunteers upon either side of the road on the abatis, with orders to drive the rebels out, they (the rebels) having succeeded in getting into the abatis first, driving Casey's division before them like sheep. I succeeded in holding them in check, but they were evidently determined to break our lines on the Richmond road, having been repulsed in their attempt to turn our left flank by Berry's brigade, and were working that way, keeping up a terrific fire. Our troops had all left the abatis, near the Richmond road. That was a critical moment. General Kearny was with me; my brigade had all been used up at different points (the Eighty-seventh New York Volunteers were sent to the right to support General Peck), except 348 rank and file of the One hundred and fifth Pennsylvania Volunteers under Col. A. A. McKnight. There was not a moment to be lost.

The only way to prevent the torrent from pouring down that road was to move out of the woods where we were standing, charge across the open field, and up the Richmond road. We started at double-quick, General Kearny at the head with me, also Captain Potter, my assistant adjutant-general. We went up the road to the point designated by a multiple mark on the plan, and then deployed, one-half on either side of the road in the abatis. For more than one hour those men fought in that abatis, not more than 8 or 10 rods between the two lines, during which time I rode back and forth in rear of the abatis, and up the road to the line. At last the rebels broke to the rear and toward their left. About that time large bodies of the enemy were seen moving down the Nine-mile road. Couch's division was holding it. They began to give way. Just at that time the troops in the rifle pits broke and ran, leaving me completely cut off, the rebels rushing into the open field at the point marked 5, and sweeping everything before them.

For more than half an hour I was driving the rebels before me toward Richmond, and directly in my rear the rebels were driving our troops toward the Chickahominy; it was a novel sight, I can assure you. Before I received orders to fall back, I had gone three-fourths of a mile beyond the rebels that were in my rear, and the point where the attack was first made on Casey. I immediately moved my men off the left flank, toward the White Oak Swamp, through the woods to the rear. To add to the danger of our situation, our battery (6) opened fire on us, thinking our troops had all fled from that position. To give you an idea of our position while on the Richmond road, I will state the loss: Of 348 men that started up that road 171 were either killed or wounded; and of the 18 commissioned officers 13 were killed and wounded. General Kearny's horse and mine were both killed, mine having three bullets in him before he fell.

I got back to the open field in rear of the battlefield in time to rally some remnants of regiments and make a charge on the rebel cavalry and infantry that had made their appearance, driving them into the woods. It was then quite dark and firing ceased for the night. This ended the fight for the day. In less than three hours I lost, in killed and wounded, nearly one-third of the force I took into action. The commanders of my four regiments were all disabled—three seriously wounded and one taken prisoner. * * *

Heavy reinforcements having arrived in the night the rebels were repulsed in every quarter. I was not in the fight on Monday. But for Kearny's division it is hard telling what the consequences might have been.

Please let father and mother know you have heard from me. Remember me to Mrs. — and the children. I feel very anxious to hear from you.

I remain, yours, etc.,

C. D. JAMESON.

[General Kearny to Governor Washburn.]

HEADQUARTERS THIRD DIVISION, HEINTZELMAN'S CORPS,
Camp Berry, Barhamsville, Va., May 10.

His Excellency ISRAEL WASHBURN, Jr.,
Governor of Maine.

SIR: As the commanding general of this division, of which two of the generals commanding brigades (General Jameson and General Berry), as well as two

regiments, the Third Maine, Colonel Staples, and the Fourth, Colonel Walker, form part, I take this opportunity of calling to your notice their meritorious conduct in the late fight, and to display the fact that, although these regiments were not the sufferers in the late engagement at Williamsburg, having been detached by General Heintzelman to guard the left flank, yet by their steady and imposing attitude they contributed to the success of those more immediately engaged. And I assure you, sir, that with such material, commanded by such sterling officers, nothing but success can crown our efforts, when the occasion requires. I have the honor to inclose the report of Gen. D. B. Birney, who commanded the noble brigade of which these two regiments form a part. General Birney commands two New York and two Maine regiments.

It is peculiarly appropriate, after having rendered justice to the regiments, to bring Generals Jameson and Berry to the especial attention of yourself and citizens at home, who look to them for noble deeds to illustrate their annals; and I am proud to state that they have amply filled the full meed of anticipated distinction. General Berry, charged with the left wing of our line of battle, evinced a courage that might be expected from him (when as colonel of the Fourth Regiment of Maine Volunteers he really saved the day at Bull Run), and also a genius for war and a pertinacity in the fight that proved him fit for high command, for he was most severely assailed on the left, and had most difficult rifle pits and abatis to face and carry. General Jameson, who commanded the First Brigade (One hundred and fifth, Sixty-third, Fifty-seventh Pennsylvania Volunteers, and Eighty-seventh New York), forming the rear of the column on the march from camp on the 5th instant, used vigor in bringing up his men under every difficulty, and was with me under severe fire when he arrived, and gave guaranty of a resolution that promised success in case, daylight remaining to us, he had been launched to the attack of Fort Magruder and those works which the enemy evacuated to us during the night, and which he was the first to enter at daylight.

I have the honor, sir, to be, your obedient servant,

P. KEARNY,

Brigadier-General Commanding Third Division, Heintzelman's Corps.

(Report Adj. Gen. Maine, 1862, pt. 1, pp. 132-138.)

Brig. Gen. Charles D. Jameson was one of the best specimens of the chivalrous gentleman, soldier, and patriot which his native State has sacrificed to the Union during the war. He was a true son of Maine; lived on the banks of our noblest river, always resident within our borders, engaged in that business which marks our distinctive employment, and gives us name. He was in all respects a true child of the Pine Tree State. In all the calls of life he was active and energetic. He was successful in his business and happy in his home. He was generous and genial in all associations with his fellow-men. He had a great readiness of perception, the nicest sense of honor, and a bland and pleasing address. He had no enemies, but the most extended circle of warm and sustaining friends. In politics he was a Democrat whose patriotism and love of liberty blazed high and warm above the limits of party.

It was natural that such a man should have been the colonel of the militia regiment of his vicinity, and twice a candidate for governor of the State. The attack upon Sumter brought from his heart the earliest vows upon the altar of his country. He left wife and children, parents, home, and friends, and all that made life cherished and valuable to share the hardships and dangers of the field. The Second Regiment, raised under his active exertions, made him its colonel, and was the first from Maine at the seat of war. In a few weeks it was launched in battle at Bull Run. Its conduct there gave it glory and a gallant name. Its colonel then won his star as brigadier.

It shows the man that in this conflict when the regiment had been driven back from batteries of the enemy, leaving their wounded behind, he called for volunteers, and leading back a little band, under steady fire, brought off in their arms the injured and helpless men. As brigadier he had not the fortune to lead men from his own State, but choice regiments from Pennsylvania and New York composed his command. With those he fought at Yorktown, Williamsburg, Fair Oaks, and in other fields of battle. He was the first to enter Yorktown, and one of the first to enter Williamsburg.

At Fair Oaks his conduct and generalship won for him the warmest praise from his superior, that eminently gallant man, the late lamented Kearny. It is believed that Jameson then carried the Stars and Stripes, and by its side the Pine Tree banner of Maine, nearer Richmond than any other, either before or for a long time after. A friend once asked him, "What did you intend, with your handful of men, when you received orders at Fair Oaks to fall back?" "But for that order," said he, "I would have been in heaven or in Richmond that night." As a soldier General Jameson was a striking figure. Daring to rashness, exposing himself without sense of danger, he rushed into battle, and inflamed with his own dash and ardor the men who followed him.

He asked no man to go where he was not willing to be in advance of the foremost. He was not less noticeable in other fields of duty. He had, at all times and in all places, the love and admiration of his brigade, which gloried in its leader. He cared for his men tenderly, and counted no labor as hardship which brought them health or comfort; in marches he walked with them. He lived with them in camp, and shared their lot, whatever it was. By such labor and exposure he became sick, and in September came home to recruit his health, intending to go back to the field again; but it was not so ordered of Providence, and he sank gradually, until, on the 6th of November, 1862, he died.

It sums up this narrative that Jameson was the first volunteer and the first colonel in the field from Maine; that he was first at Yorktown, and among the first and foremost toward Richmond; one of the first in gallantry, one of the first in the love and admiration of his men. Alas, that he should be the first general of Maine to die. At 35 years of age, it was hard for the country to lose such a gallant spirit, but the State has gained the memory of a hero.

The Washington Republican speaks as follows of the qualities which distinguished our gallant general:

"Intrepid, enterprising, but withal judicious and full of resources, General Jameson had before him the prospect of a most brilliant military career. He was one of the fighting generals.

"As, with others of the salvoed chiefs of fearless men who lately have left us—when we could have better spared others of another mold than their's—as he, and Kearny, and Stevens shall reach the shores of that dark river, made mournful by Cerberus's ceaseless howl, the waiting hosts of the bravest dead of all the past will recognize their beaming blades, nor will they seek to dispute them place amid their front and foremost ranks." (Adj. Gen. Report, Maine, pt. 1, pp. 402-403.)

○